3   information is representative of an amount of data to be input in

4   response to a write request.

1   173. The method of claim 172 further including outputting the

2   amount of data which corresponds to the block size information.

1   174. The method of claim 173 wherein the data corresponding to the

2   block size information is output during a plurality of first and second

3   edge transitions of the external clock signal.

1   175. The method of claim 165 wherein the first edge transition of

2   the external clock signal is a rising edge transition of the external

3   clock signal, and the second edge transition of the external clock

4   signal is a falling edge transition of the external clock signal.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/510,213, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/252,998, now U.S. Patent 6,032,214, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/979,127, now U.S. Patent 5,915,105. Application Serial No. 09/510,213 is still pending.

Applicants request priority to Application Serial No. 07/510,898, filed April 18, 1990, now abandoned. Applicants request such priority through Application 09/510,213, filed on February 22, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/252,998, filed on February 19, 1999 (now U.S. Patent 6,032,214), which is a continuation of Application No.

08/979,127, filed on November 26, 1997 (now U.S. Patent 5,915,105), which is a continuation of Application No. 08/762,139, filed on December 9, 1996 (now U.S. Patent 5,809,263); which is a continuation of Application No. 08/607,780, filed February 27, 1996 (now abandoned); which is a continuation of Application No. 08/222,646, filed on March 31, 1994 (now U.S. Patent 5,513,327); which is a continuation of Application No. 07/954,945, filed on September 30, 1992 (now U.S. Patent 5,319,755); which is a continuation of Application No. 07/510,898, filed on April 18, 1990 (now abandoned).

Accordingly, Applicants claim the benefit of the filing date of Application Serial No. 07/510,898 -- i.e., April 18, 1990. The specification has been amended to identify the continuation or related U.S. application data identified above. No new matter has been added.

In this continuation application, Applicants present new claims which set forth novel and unobvious features of Applicants' invention. Applicants submit new claims 151-175 to more fully protect the instant invention. No new matter has been added.

The newly submitted claims are believed to be fully supported by the specification -- see, for example, Figures 2 and 10-13; page 14, lines 3-22, line 2; page 15, lines 18 to page 16, line 7; page 20, line 20 to page 21, line 20; page 23, line 6 to page 24, line 2; page 27, line 23 to page 28, line 20; page 46, line 19 to page 48, line 17; page 53, line 23 to page 59, line 2; and page 115, lines 10-22.
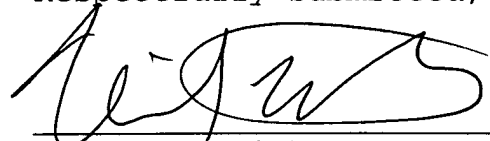
Applicants have also amended the specification to correct obvious spelling, typographical and grammatical errors. In addition, a new Abstract of the Disclosure is attached hereto. No new matter has been added.

Finally, accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a Request to Approve Drawing Changes. In that Request, Applicants seek to amend Figure 10 to more fully reflect the discussion in the specification, in particular, page 55, lines 12-16 and page 58, lines 13-23. The proposed changes are indicated in red. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner approve the proposed changes to Figure 10. A new Figure 10 which incorporates the changes is also attached to the Request.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of this application. Applicants submit that all of the claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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